

## King County Mobility Coalition

### DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Rm 4080

#### In attendance

*Members/Alternates:* Gaby Bell, Jim Blanchard, Nathan Buck, Ella Campbell, Margaret Casey, Steve Daschle, Jackie Engler-Morris, Melony Joyce, Greg Kangas, Ref Lindmark, Jacque Mann, Lynn Moody, Alex O'Reilly (Co-Chair), Eileen Rasnack, Ruben Rivera-Jackman, Bob Sahm (Co-Chair), Ruth Tolmasoff, Dinah Wilson, Cindy Zwart.

*Guests:* Alina Aaron, Micah Babinski, David Egan, Hannah Haag, Shelley Hawkins, Erica Horn, Janet Matkin, Michael McCann, Angela Miyamoto, Aaron Morrow, Michelle Mouton, Jim Seeks.

*Staff:* Michelle Zeidman.

#### Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

- Alex and Bob welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.

#### *Announcements:*

- Ref Lindmark shared that Metro has updated its inclement weather plans. This plan includes the use of snow plows and running buses on arterials. Information about snow routes is at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/metro>
- Lynn Moody announced that Hopelink was awarded the DSHS Medicaid brokerage contract for King and Snohomish Counties.

#### *New Introductions:*

- Erica Horn is the director of Hero House, a program for adults with mental health living in the community. Their services include education, employment and connection to other services using an empowerment-based model. <http://www.herohouse.org/>
- Michael McCann is a member of Hero House, and a possible candidate for the KCMC's Mental Illness Advocate/Service representative seat.
- Jackie Engler-Morris is staff to the Deaf-Blind Service Center and provided some guidance for working with her Deaf-Blind interpreters: (1) please give pauses or talk more slowly as it takes time for the interpreters to communicate with Jackie, (2) state your name before you speak, and (3) take turns speaking. <http://www.seattledbsc.org/>
- Alina Aaron is the new Program Manager for mobility at Hopelink, staffing the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative and Travel Ambassador program.
- David Egan is a member of the Washington Environmental Council of the Blind.

#### Consent Calendar

- *Appoint New Members and Alternates:*
  - Decision: the Coalition approved Greg Kangas to serve as the alternate to Craig Leisy for the Taxi/For-profit Transportation Provider seat.
- *Approve July 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes:*
  - Decision: the Coalition approved the July 20, 2010 meeting minutes as written.

### Mobility Manager Update

- Michelle Zeidman shared a draft 2010-2015 Action Plan for the Coalition, which merges the 2010 KCMC work plan with the action plan developed during the Accessible Transportation Coalitions Initiative (ATCI) workshop in June. The Coalition noted that equity is embedded throughout the Coalition's activities.
  - ❑ Action Item: Subcommittees will provide a timeline for each project in the plan.
- The Coalition hosted transportation forums in September for North King County and October, focused on Transportation & Employment. The Coalition will also be hosting forums in January (South King County) and March (Bothell).
- 2011 meeting dates are as follows: Feb. 16 (rescheduled to Feb. 22), May 17, Aug. 16 and Nov. 15. Location: Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Ave, Room 4050/4060.
- PSRC's grant scoring team has evaluated and ranked the proposals received for King County and the rest of the Puget Sound. Funding prospects for most King County projects look positive, including the mobility management project which provides staffing support to the KCMC.

### Wheelchair Accessible Taxis Update

- Lynn Moody provided background on wheelchair accessible taxicabs (WATs) in King County: In 2007 and 2008, Seattle and King County had demonstration project with eight (8) vehicles to determine if WATs could be economically viable. This pilot grew from eight (8) to 16 vehicles. Prior to the pilot, there were no WATs in King County.
- Greg Kangas, with the City of Seattle Taxi Inspectors, briefed the Coalition on Seattle and King County's Wheelchair Accessible Taxicab industry. (*See handout*). Currently, there are 30 dual-licensed WAT available to residents of Seattle and King County. We are adding 15 more dual-licensed WAT in the next few months. All WAT are low-floor minivans with rear entry ramps. A few WAT will accommodate two wheelchairs. Dual-licensed WAT can pick up passengers in both Seattle and King County. In Seattle, the service response time for WAT trips should be about 20 minutes (includes loading and tied down). All WAT drivers have completed 8 hours of training in the special needs of passengers in wheelchairs. The taximeter rate for WAT trips is the same as all other taxicab trips: \$2.50 for the first 1/10 mile then \$0.25 for each additional 1/10 mile when vehicle speeds are more than 12 miles per hour and \$0.25 for each 30 seconds at slower speeds. There are 26 WAT at Yellow Cab (206-622-6500) and 4 WAT at Farwest Taxi (206-622-1717).
- WAT service complaints should be submitted to the City of Seattle at 206-296-TAXI.
- Any questions about WAT service should be directed to Craig Leisy, Manager of the Consumer Affairs Unit at 206-386-1296. (Note: Craig is a member of the KCMC.)
- Ruben Rivera-Jackman noted that the WATs are underutilized because many people don't know about the service. He offered to help promote the service through the King County Housing Authority.
- Dorene Cornwell shared that it is difficult to get taxis in rural areas because drivers are often immigrants who aren't familiar with rural areas and who need access to Halal restaurants and mosques. Lynn Moody agreed and noted that it is more difficult for WATs to operate in rural areas than for regular taxis. Melony Joyce suggested that this is an opportunity for KCMC to reach out to drivers.

- Ref Lindmark noted that there is an opportunity for KCMC to help recruit members to the Taxicab Advisory Group.
- Eileen Rasnack shared that it is difficult to get taxi service in North Seattle, Woodinville and Bothell. Cindy Zwart added that areas outside Metro Access Transportation service boundaries also have limited taxi service.
- Aaron Morrow shared that he has applied to join the Seattle Taxicab Commission as a representative for East King County.
- Lynn Moody suggested that KCMC demonstrate to taxi drivers that there is a significant work in rural areas and convince them to work in outlying areas, perhaps by finding out what taxi drivers would need to be stationed in rural areas.
- Greg Kangas noted that about one-third of Yellow Cab's WATs are at the airport.
- Ruben Rivera-Jackman noted that Shuttle Express has an accessible van at the airport that can transport people in wheelchairs for the same fee as other riders. Also, Shuttle Express provides service between multiple destinations, including to Portland.
- ❑ Action Item: Greg Kangas will ask Craig Leisy to send marketing information for the WAT, along with an html link to Michelle Zeidman to share with the group.
- ❑ Action Item: Gaby Bell will forward her tip sheet on Accessible Taxicabs to Michelle Zeidman to share with the Coalition.

#### Regional Transit Task Force Update

- Lynn Moody briefed the Coalition on the Regional Transit Task Force's (RTTF) recommendations:
  1. *Metro should create and adopt a new set of performance measures.*
  2. *King County and Metro management must control all of the agency's operating expenses to provide a cost structure that is sustainable over time.*
  3. *The policy guidance for making service reduction and service growth decisions should be based on the following priorities: (1) Emphasize productivity; (2) Ensure social equity; and (3) Provide geographic value throughout the county.*
  4. *Create clear and transparent guidelines for making service allocation decisions.*
  5. *Use the following principles to provide direction for the development of service guidelines: Transparency, clarity and measurability; Use of the system design factors; Flexibility to address dynamic financial conditions; Integration with the regional transportation system; Development of performance thresholds as the basis for decision-making on network changes.*
  6. *King County, Metro, and a broad coalition of community and business interests should pursue state legislation to create additional revenue sources that would provide a long-term, more sustainable base of revenue support for transit services.*
  7. *Metro staff should use the task force recommendations and discussions as the framework for revising Metro's current mission statement and creating a vision statement.*
- The Task Force's Final Report and Executive Summary are available online at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/transittaskforce.aspx>
- The Coalition discussed the recommendations and some members noted that because the RTTF used consensus to develop the recommendations, it was unable to generate a more concrete solution to the funding issue.

- Next step: recommendations will go before King County Council's transportation committee and then the Regional Transit Committee.
- Action Item: Lynn Moody agreed to monitor the way social equity is defined for transit planning purposes and keep the Coalition updated.
- Ref Lindmark noted that the RTTF illustrates a departure from the old paradigm of Seattle vs. King County, as shown in the joint op-ed piece by Seattle City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen and Kent Mayor Suzette Cook: [http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/opinion/2013442238\\_guest16cooke.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/opinion/2013442238_guest16cooke.html). Ref also shared that Metro's planners are starting to look more closely at performance measures as a result of this work.

#### Transportation Opportunities Assessment Update

- Micah Babinski briefed the Coalition about his progress on the transportation opportunities assessment for King County, including his methodology and preliminary findings regarding the availability of public transit and community transportation options in areas with high concentrations of special needs populations. (*See PowerPoint slides*)
- Micah also noted that the first 2010 Census data is slated to be available in April 2011, and the transportation opportunities assessment will be updated to with this data.
- Next steps are to share these maps via a partnership with King County Metro and the Getting there Transportation Resource Center (TRC), which is developing a series of sub-regional brochures with information on available transportation services. These brochures will be utilized by the TRC and also distributed to community agencies in King County.
- Melony Joyce also noted that King County Metro is working to increase the visibility of the community transportation shuttles on its website.

#### SR-520 Bridge Tolling Presentation & Discussion

- Janet Matkin from Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) briefed the Coalition on the State's SR-520 bridge tolling plan. (*See PowerPoint slides*)
- Janet Matkin noted that it is possible to set up an anonymous *Good to Go!* account by paying cash at one of their storefront centers.
- Janet Matkin also shared that there will be incentives to sign-up for a *Good to Go!* account, but there will not be a "free" passes.
- There will be bilingual staff at some of their storefront centers and also will use Language Line to communicate with the public.
- In January, WSDOT will host two (2) trainings for social service providers.
- Ref Lindmark also noted that King County Metro shared their lessons learned from the ORCA process with WSDOT to improve outreach and education for nonprofit agencies and their clients.
- Action Item: Janet Matkin requested that Coalition members help distribute information to their clients and colleagues. Outreach materials are available online at <http://www.GoodToGo520.org> or <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Tolling/publications.htm>.

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:  
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>